

REMARKS

Claims 10, 20, and 22 are amended. Claims 21 and 23 are canceled. Claims 1-9, 11-19, and 24 are pending. Claim 8 was inadvertently omitted in the original filing. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication in the Office Action dated October 1, 2004 that claims 1-19 and 24 are allowed. Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication in the Office Action dated October 1, 2004 that claim 23 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. In order to expedite issuance of the application, independent claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations previously recited in claim 23 and intervening claim 21, and thus should be allowable, as well as claim 22, which has been amended to depend therefrom.

Claims 10-13 were objected to for being in improper form as to dependency. Claim 10 has been amended to clarify that it depends from claim 1, rather than depending from claim 10. As claims 11-13 depend from claim 10, their dependency has also been clarified. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn. In addition, because they ultimately depend from claim 1, which was allowed in the Office Action, applicants believe that claims 10-13 are now in a condition for allowance.

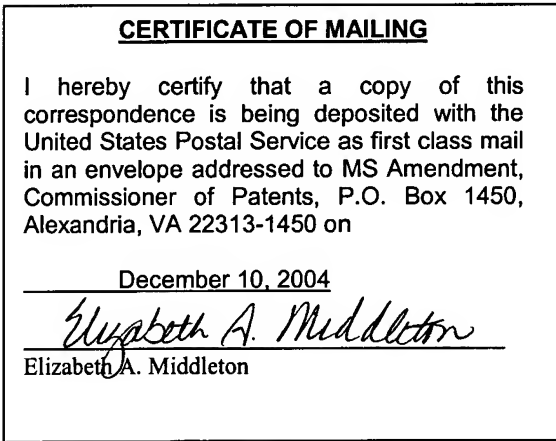
Claim 22 was amended to change its dependency from canceled claim 21 to amended claim 20. Because claim 20 has been placed in a condition for allowance by incorporating the limitations of claim 23 and intervening claim 21, applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 is also in a condition for allowance.

The amendments made herein are being made to clarify the invention and to focus the claims on those aspects of the invention which are a commercial priority to the assignee. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved. To the extent that the amendments constitute a narrowing of the claims, such narrowing of the claims should not be construed as an admission as to the merits of the prior rejections. Indeed, Applicants traverse the rejections and preserve all rights and arguments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue additional protection in applications filed during the pendency of this application.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, it is respectfully submitted that the claims currently pending in the present application are in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of those claims, as amended herein, is earnestly solicited. Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact their representative, David Franklin at (513) 651-6856 or dfranklin@fbtlaw.com.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of fees to Frost Brown Todd LLC Deposit Account No. 06-2226.



Respectfully submitted,

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